

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00534 041230Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 122629

O 041155Z MAR 76 ZFF-4  
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2918

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0534

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR ZA  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH KAUNDA

REF: STATE 052214

1. AGREE THAT DELAY IN MEETING HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY LONG AND I TOO HAVE BEEN CONCERNED, BUT ON BALANCE BELIEVE IT IS DUE TO KAUNDA'S BUSY SCHEDULE (INCLUDING MORE RECENTLY VISITS OF HOLDEN ROBERTO, NGUZA KARL BOND AND NKOMO) RATHER THAN ANY CLEAR SIGN OF DISILLUSIONEMENT OR DISPEASURE WITH US.

2. IN FACT, KAUNDA TELEPHONED ME LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON FEB 27 (NOT A COMMON OCCURRENCE AND THE SECOND TIME IN THREE-AND-ONE-HALF YEARS). HE WISHED PERSONALLY TO APOLOGIZE FOR DELAY, SAY HE HOPED HIS BUREAUCRACY WOULD HAVE DATA AND ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT WE WERE SEEKING EARLY THIS WEEK WHEN WE COULD MEET AND DISCUSS IT. KAUNDA'S TONE WAS VERY WARM AND FRIENDLY AND ON PERSONAL NOTE HE LAMENTED HAVING NO TIME FOR GOLF AND ASKED ME ABOUT MY GAME.

3. WHILE DEPT MAY BE UNDERSTANDABLY SENSITIVE TO DELAYED RESPONSE ON PROPOSED USG OFFERS OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE, KAUNDA'S PRIORITIES AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT ARE MORE IN POLITICAL THAN ECONOMIC FIELD. HE TOLD ANGO'S GORDON RELLY (WHOSE COPPER INTERESTS ARE DEEPLY IN THE RED) THE OTHER DAY THAT MOST IMPORTANT THING HE FACES IS POLITICAL STABILITY

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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00534 041230Z

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; UNTIL THAT IS CLEARLY ON WAY TO

ACHIEVEMENT NO COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC SITUATION REALLY MATTERS. ASTOUNDING, BUT RELY SAID ANGOLA UNDERSTOOD, TOOK THE HINT AND APPEALED DIRECTLY TO SMITH FOR SINCERITY AND FORWARD MOVEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS.

4. BELIEVE WE ARE BETTER OFF NOT RAISING MATTER WITH GRZ UNTIL THIS WEEKEND OR EARLY NEXT WEEK WHEN I WILL CALL CHONA.

5. GRZ IS INDEED EXPECTING SOME USG STATEMENT TO SMITH ON RHODESIA AND IT WOULD EASE MY MEETING WITH KAUNDA IF I HAVE ONE. QUITE FRANKLY I WOULD NOT EXPECT THIS WILL CHANGE SMITH'S MIND OR APPROACH, YET IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT USG TELL SMITH HE CAN EXPECT NO HELP FROM US WHEN GOING GETS ROUGHER AS IT WILL. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON THIS RECOMMENDATION.  
WILKOWSKI

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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